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REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in the application. The following remarks are respectfully submitted.

I. Rejections under 35 USC §102

Claims 1-5, 9, 11-13, 15-20, 24, 26-28 and 30 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,769,671 to Lim ("Lim").

The present invention is directed to a housing portion having a first deflection portion deflecting a connector clip from a first position corresponding to a first distance between a first arm and a second arm of the connector clip, to a second position corresponding to a second distance between the first arm and the second arm.

Lim teaches "a generally closed shape member defined by opposed free ends 31 and 33, which in the relaxed condition, define a gap . . . 29" (see column 4, lines 27-33 of Lim). The member is axially locked within the housing and includes inwardly extending projections 25a-25d that radially yieldably interfere with the path followed by an inserted lead.

Lim does not teach a housing portion having a first deflection portion deflecting a connector clip from a first position corresponding to a first distance between a first arm and a second arm of the connector clip, to a second position corresponding to a second distance between the first arm and the second arm, as set forth in independent claims 1 and 16 of the present invention. Therefore, claim 1 and claims 2-5, 9, 11-13 and 15 dependent thereon and independent claim 16 and claims 17-20, 24, 26-28 and 30 dependent thereon are patentably distinguishable from Lim. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

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II. Rejections under 35 USC §103

Claims 7-8, 10, 14, 22-23, 25 and 29 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lim. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As described above, Lim does not teach or suggest a housing portion having a first deflection portion deflecting a connector clip from a first position corresponding to a first distance between a first arm and a second arm of the connector clip, to a second position corresponding to a second distance between the first arm and the second arm, as set forth in independent claims 1 and 16 of the present invention. Therefore, claim 1 and claims 7, 8 10, 14 dependent thereon and independent claim 16 and claims 22, 23, 25 and 29 dependent thereon are patentably distinguishable from Lim. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 6 and 21 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lim in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,545,188 to Bradshaw et al. ("Bradshaw"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Bradshaw teaches a lead connector having a collet-type mechanism. A bolt is securely affixed within the header of the implanted device. The bolt means has a central bore for receiving a pin of a lead, and fingers for contacting the end of the lead. Initial electrical contact is achieved by the bolt when the lead is inserted therein. A nut threadedly engages the bolt to compress the fingers against the lead. The nut is rotatably received within the header of the implanted device so that it can both tighten on the bolt and loosen therefrom. The nut is manipulated through a piercable septum.

Neither Lim nor Bradshaw, alone or in combination, teach or suggest a housing portion having a first deflection portion deflecting a connector clip from a first position corresponding to a first distance between a first arm and a second arm of the connector clip, to a second position corresponding to a second distance between the first arm and the second arm, as set forth in independent claims 1 and 16 of the present invention. Therefore, claim 1 and claim 6 dependent thereon and independent claim 16 and claim 21 dependent thereon

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are patentably distinguishable from Lim and Bradshaw. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

III. Conclusion

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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